

Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
C/O Jack Travelstead /Sonya Davis

21 August 2007

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, VA 23607

Dear Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Members:

As a recreational fisherman I would like to take this opportunity to express my views on the various projects seeking license fund support during the Fall 2007 cycle. I would like to thank you for the excellent job you have done representing the interest of recreational fishermen in the state of Virginia.

A. 2008 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 11). **SUPPORT.**

B. 2008 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 7). **SUPPORT.**

C. 2008 Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year14). **SUPPORT.**

D. Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds FY 2008. **PARTIAL SUPPORT.** I am glad to see the commercial fishermen are providing funds , however it is nowhere equal to what is being ask from the recreationals, as a minimum the commercial should be providing 50% or more.

E. Sheepshead Population Dynamics in Chesapeake Bay, Virginia (Year 3). **SUPPORT.**

F. Wishart's Point Landing. **DEFER FUNDING.** The current request will only allow shallow draft boats, and we do not feel the cost of this project is cost effective. We feel that this project should be deferred until funds is obtained to deepen the channel.

New Projects:

G. 2008 Youth Development "Hooked on Fishing" Adventure (Year 1). **DO NOT SUPPORT.** For the amount of money that has been requested, the actual benefit in numbers of children that will participate is small in comparison to other children events.

H. Saxis Fishing Pier Expansion. **SUPPORT.**

I. Pilot Study: Application to pop-up satellite archival tags (PSATs) to assess postrelease survival, habitat utilization and short term movement of striped bass in Virginia's winter recreational fishery. **DO NOT SUPPORT.** The tagging of 10 striped bass at approximately \$7000 each, seems to be a rather expensive research program to find out the survival rate of strip bass after they have been caught. We already have data on J hook vs circle hook, and we know that the rockfish will stay in the bay as long as there is food there, to me this project appears to be more about studying the new pop-up satellite archival tags .

J. Improving stock assessment of weakfish. **DO NOT SUPPORT.** This study should have been developed and planned by ASMFC, and the funding should be solicited from all the States on

the Mid-Atlantic Coast.

K. Reef Monitoring Equipment Support for VMRC's Fisheries Management Division.

SUPPORT. I would like to see the RFAB put a requirement on the Reef program to publicize the reports from their surveys of the reefs back to the RFAB and the public. The reef program has failed to utilize the side scan sonar equipment that we purchased for them a few years ago to study the health of the reef sites..

L. Adult Red Drum Population Structure Study. **SUPPORT.**

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to express my views on the disbursement of our state's license funds. Thank you for your consideration.

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